

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please amend the figures as shown in the enclosed replacement sheets. The attached sheets of drawings include the addition of the "Prior Art" legend to Figures 15 and 16. Applicant submits that these replacement figures are formal.

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application and indicating that claims 2-6 and 27-46 contain allowable subject matter.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-12 and 27-46 were pending in the present application. By way of this reply, the limitations of claim 2 have been incorporated into claim 1 and accordingly, claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, claims 1, 3-12, and 27-46 are pending in the present patent application. Claim 1 is independent. Claims 3-12 and 27-46 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 28, 34, 39, and 41-43 have been amended for clarification. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments as support for these amendments may be found, for example, in paragraph [0025] of the Instant Specification.

Objection to the Drawings

New drawings have been submitted to comply with 37 CFR §1.121(d). Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,995,228 issued to Otani et al. (hereinafter "Otani") and further in view of JP 62-156535 (hereinafter "Hideto").

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of now-cancelled dependent claim 2. As the limitations of claim 2 constitute allowable subject matter (See Office Action dated February 22, 2005 at page 4), amended independent claim 1 is now allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

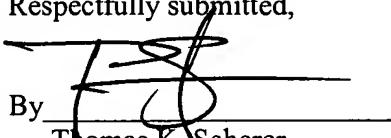
Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 02008/125001).

Dated: May 23, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By



Thomas K. Scherer

Registration No.: 45,079

OSHA · LIANG LLP

1221 McKinney St., Suite 2800

Houston, Texas 77010

(713) 228-8600

(713) 228-8778 (Fax)

Attorney for Applicant

Attachments